In the Claims

1. (Currently amended)   A method of operating a computing device which enables the communication of information between the device and a further computing device, each having a communications capability, the method comprising causing the device to request information regarding contact entries in a contact store ~~accessible by~~ of the further device and for a hash key to be transmitted to the further device, causing the devices each to generate digests of contact entries in their respective contact stores using the hash key and for the digests generated by the further device to be transmitted to the device, ~~comparing~~ using the digests to compare the contact entries of ~~a first contact store accessible by the device with contact entries made available to the device from~~ the respective contact store~~s~~ ~~accessible by the further device~~, and notifying at least one of the devices of contacts determined to be common to the ~~first and further~~ contact stores of the devices.

2. (Original)   A method according to claim 1 wherein the contact store of the device and/or the contact store of the further device is/are arranged as a plurality of overlapping or exclusive groups of contact entries.

3. (Currently amended)   A method according to claim [[1]] 2 wherein contact entries in the contact store of the device and/or the contact store of the further device are selectively excluded from the comparison of contact entries.

4. (Previously presented)   A method according to claim 3 wherein at least one of the groups is selectively excluded from the comparison of contact entries.

5. (Previously presented)   A method according to claim 1 wherein the contact entries are selected to comprise telephone numbers.

6. (Original)   A method according to claim 5 wherein selected characters are removed from the telephone numbers.

7. (Previously presented)   A method according to claim 6 wherein the telephone numbers are arranged to comprise a country or area code.

Claims 8 to 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[9]] 1 wherein a network server is arranged to generate the hash key and communicate it to the devices.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the comparison of contact entries is undertaken by one of the computing devices using data communicated to it by the other.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the comparison of contact entries is undertaken by a network server.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the contacts store accessible by the device and the contacts store accessible by the further device are held respectively on the device and the further device.

15. (Currently amended) A method according to any one of claims claim 1 wherein the contacts store accessible by of the device and the contacts store accessible by of the further device are held by a third party.

16.   (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the third party comprises the network server.

17.   (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein communication between the device and further device occurs over a wireless link.

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18.   (Previously presented) A method according to claim 17 wherein the wireless link comprises any one or more of a cellular phone network, infrared, Bluetooth or a 802.11 WiFi network.

Claims 19 to 23 (Cancelled)

24. (New) A computing device having a communications capability and a contacts store, the device being configured to request information regarding contact entries in a contact store of a further device and for a hash key to be transmitted to the further device, means to generate digests of contact entries in the contact store of the device using the hash key and using the digests to compare contact entries of its contact store with contact entries of the contacts store of the further device, and notifying at the further device of contacts determined to be common to the contact stores of the devices.